

HOOKE, GEN. JOSEPH

DRAWER 9B GENERALS (UNION)

71 2025 080 0043

Civil War Officers Union

Joseph Hooker

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

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**RUMORED TRANSFER OF GEN. HOOKER
TO THE WEST.**

**COMPLIMENT PAID HIM BY THE
PRESIDENT.**

B. Trans. circ. 7 — Sept 22, 1862
Washington, 22d. Gen. Hooker is here, attended by his staff. His wound is only considered dangerous so far as it is liable to superinduce lock-jaw. Rumor says he is to have an important command, perhaps that of the Western Department.

The President today appointed Gen. Hooker a Brigadier General in the regular army.

NUMEROUS TESTIMONIES OF NEW DOCTORS

TO THE PRESS

COMPLIMENT PAID FOR BY

THE PRESS

It is a fact that the new doctors have been giving to the press a great deal of information about the new system of medicine. The doctors have been giving to the press a great deal of information about the new system of medicine. The doctors have been giving to the press a great deal of information about the new system of medicine.

Hooker

FROM WASHINGTON.

Reuben Transcript Oct 13, 1862
SPECIAL CABINET MEETING,

GENERAL HOOKER SENT FOR.

New York, 13th. A despatch from Washington says Watts's rebel raid caused a special Cabinet meeting on Saturday. Gen. Halleck was present. The result is unknown, but it is said a despatch was sent to Gen. Hooker, requesting his presence at the adjourned meeting.

Rumor again assigns Gen. Banks to the War Department, sends Gen. McClellan to the West, and Gen. Hooker to the Army of the Potomac.

A serenade was given to Gen. Sigel by the band of the Massachusetts 33d Regiment, this evening.



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LINCOLN'S FRANKNESS WITH HOOKER.

Col. Alexander K. McClure, in McClure's Magazine.

At no stage of the war was the Army of the Potomac in such a demoralized condition as during the period from the defeat of Fredericksburg until Hooker was called to the command. Lincoln believed that some of Burnside's corps commanders were unfaithful to him, and where was he to get a commander? It is an open secret that Sedgwick, Meade, and Reynolds each in turn declined it, and the president finally turned to Hooker as the only man whose enthusiasm might inspire the demoralized army into effectiveness as an aggressive military power. That Lincoln was much distressed at the condition then-existing is evident from many sources, but he makes it specially evident in a characteristic letter addressed by him to Hooker on the 26th of January, 1863, telling him of his assignment to the command of the Army of the Potomac. In this letter he says to Hooker: "I think that during General Burnside's command of the army, you have taken counsel of your ambition and thwarted him as much as you could, in which you did a great wrong to the country and to a most meritorious and honorable brother officer. I have heard, in such a way as to believe it, of your recently saying that both the army and the government needed a dictator. Of course it was not for this, but in spite of it, that I have given you the command. Only those generals who gain success can set up as dictators. What I now ask of you is military success, and I will risk the dictatorship." Hooker accepted this pointed admonition like a true soldier. His answer was: "He talks to me like a father. I shall not answer this letter until I have won a great victory."

The Man Who Risked the Dictatorship

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By R. R. CAMDEN

READERS born thirty or forty years after the Civil War may read Lincoln's letter to Hooker without seeing in it any more than homely sense put in an impressive way. But when Joseph Hooker read it he must have felt that it came from a master's hand.

Hooker knew that he had talked indiscreetly, yet he did not look for this. "I have heard, in such a way as to believe it, of your recently saying that both the army and the government needed a dictator. Of course it was not for this, but in spite of it, that I have given you the command. Only those generals who gain successes can set up dictators. What I now ask of you is military success, and I will risk the dictatorship."

Those who have merely read our war record as it is told in a hastily written school history may see in this nothing more than Lincoln's good natured confidence in his own position. Joseph Hooker knew that two dictatorships had been possible. In each case the rival to the President had been so able and so popular that a weak or timid executive might have been driven from the White House.

No one now has so devoted a following as the band of Abolitionists who counted Fremont as the man to find all the paths the nation needed. In their view Fremont was a hero, a man who could do everything he wished, a master of mountains and of morasses, a knight of the Middle Ages plus a modern scientist. Mrs. Fremont went to the White House at midnight, and the patient Lincoln says: "She more than once intimated that if General Fremont should decide to try conclusions with me, he could set up for himself." This was not all emotionalism. In open day there were Abolitionists who deemed it best to impeach Lincoln and choose Fremont as dictator. Had Fremont been a great general, had he gained a victory of the first rank it is hard to say what he might have done. Fremont's sturdy father-in-law, Thomas H. Benton, paraphrased Madame Roland in saying: "Oh politics, what bamboozling is practiced in thy game." Fremont's good looks, and his

gallant bearing, his French and Spanish, his style and sprightliness, made him a past-master in the Lodge of Bamboozlement. Even now the verses of Whittier show how the mass of Abolitionists overrated the man whom the cool-headed Grant so early weighed in a balance and found wanting.

Turn we now to the young Napoleon. George B. McClellan had made a fine record in Mexico, he had studied the art of war in the Crimea, he had been in the West Indies and the Northwest, he was a surveyor and a bridge builder. A man who loved drill and discipline, he was yet a lover of popularity. He won the heart of the Army of the Potomac, and we have his own statement that friends advised him to march into Washington and take command. What his admirers counseled him to do, the flattery that was showered upon him, would be incredible did not "McClellan's Own Story" bear witness to it. The charm of his personality as told by so severe a critic as General Michie does not surprise anyone who has listened to veterans of 1861. "Little Mac" was a model engineer, organizer, master of details—all these he was, and had he been a general of aggressive type, had he used his devoted soldiers as Jackson or Taylor would have used them, who knows what he might have done? With all his talents he was not great. Lincoln's pithy saying: "General McClellan thinks that it always rains on the just and never on the unjust," goes a long way toward justifying Stanton's explosive remark, "If he had a million men he would swear that the enemy had two million, and then he would sit down in the middle of the road and yell for three."

Lincoln had waited at McClellan's headquarters till McClellan's political friends saw fit to go. He knew that Fremont's supporters had trampled on his portrait and burned him in effigy. Lincoln had passed through all this, and it had not driven him from office, or unnerved him. Quietly he wrote to Hooker: "What I now ask of you is military success, and I will risk the dictatorship." Surely the good-natured man from the flatboat was as resolute as the general who had wintered at Valley Forge or the general who had saved New Orleans.



Lincoln, Gen. Hooker and their staffs at a review of the Army of the Potomac.

Hooker

week by week
THE PRESIDENT AND

"FIGHTING JOE"

General Joe Hooker, the fourth commander of the noble but unfortunate Army of the Potomac, was appointed to that position by President Lincoln, in January, 1863. General Scott, for some reason, disliked Hooker and would not appoint him. Hooker, after some months of discouraging waiting, decided to return to California, and called to pay his respects to Mr. Lincoln. He was introduced as Captain Hooker, and to the surprise of the President began the following speech: "Mr. President, my friend makes a mistake. I am not Captain Hooker, but was once Lieutenant-Colonel Hooker of the regular Army. I was lately a farmer in California, but since the rebellion broke out I have been trying to get into service, but I find I am not wanted.

"I am about to return home; but before going, I was anxious to pay my respects to you, and express my wishes for your personal welfare and success in quelling this rebellion. And I want to say to you a word more.

"I was at Bull Run the other day, Mr. President, and it is no vanity in me to say, I am a d—d sight better general than you had on the field."

This was said, not in the tone of a braggart, but of a man who knew what he was talking about. Hooker did not return to California, but in a few weeks Captain Hooker was Brigadier-General Hooker, and "Fighting Joe" was regarded as one of the most vigorous and efficient Generals of the Union Army.

Hooker, J...

NAME, *Hooker, Joseph* Dates *1814-1879*. Age at death *65*

Famous as, *Soldier*

'61-47

Born at: Date :

Died at Date :

Father : Mother:

Married (1)..... (2).....
Children Children

West Point '37 List Col. by brevet. Mex. War

Events of life:

Brig. Gen. U.S.A. '61 - '62 Division in Army Pot.

*Maj. Gen. by brevet - Yorktown, Williamsburg, Malvern Hill
At South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg -*

Jan. '63. Com. in ch. Army Pot.

*CHANCELLORSVILLE (C)
May 2, 3, 4 '63*

Connection with Lincoln :

Succeeded by Gen. Meade, June '63

Went to Army Cumberland

At Lookout Mt. & Missionary Ridge '63

Maj. Gen. U.S.A. '65

Author of :

Brave & skillful tactician - not - a Com. in chief.

Works edited by:

Concise Biography

Biographies by :

Criticism of his writing on L.

Principal sources for facts of this page :

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